

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF BRYAN COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: DECLARATION OF
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY**

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STANDING ORDER OF THE COURT

**TEMPORARY DESIGNATION OF AN ALTERNATE
FACILITY FOR THE CONDUCT OF JUDICIAL BUSINESS**

On March 14, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Honorable Harold D. Melton, as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, issued an Order Declaring Statewide Judicial Emergency (“Order”) pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61. That Order has been extended, with modifications. Upon review of the Statewide Judicial Emergency Orders from the Supreme Court of Georgia and all relevant CDC guidelines and recommended practices, it is apparent that the holding of grand jury and jury trials in Bryan County, Georgia, in the traditional location, at the courthouse, cannot be done safely (due to the ongoing pandemic) while following the recommended guidelines from the CDC, Georgia Department of Public Health and the Judicial Emergency Order and extensions thereof. There is a reasonably accessible and appropriate location for such business to be conducted in Bryan County. The undersigned has determined that grand jury and jury trial proceedings can be conducted safely and in compliance with the public health guidelines, albeit with proper protocols and an alternative location for such proceedings.

As an “authorized judicial official” as defined in O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60, and acting in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60, *et seq.*, and U.S.C.R. 45, it is hereby declared that this Court is confronted with a judicial emergency. Therefore,

pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61, the undersigned, Chief Judge of the Superior Courts of the Atlantic Judicial Circuit, DOES HEREBY REAFFIRM the existence of a Judicial Emergency in the Atlantic Judicial Circuit in Bryan County, Georgia. The nature of this emergency is the continued transmission of Coronavirus /COVID-19 throughout Bryan County and the potential for infection of those who are required to appear in our courts, who may be required to interact with large groups and those who work in our court facilities.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61(c) the Court finds that the circumstances underlying the judicial emergency makes access to the Bryan County Courthouse temporarily impossible or impractical for grand jury proceedings or jury trials. The Court hereby designates the following facility, which is reasonably accessible and appropriate, for the conduct of court business: Hendrix Park Gym, 3960 Wilma Edwards Rd., Ellabell, Georgia 31308.

The alternate facility shall be accessible to the public pursuant to the Superior Court's Standing Administrative Order and during the hours required by O.C.G.A. § 15-6-93.

Unless otherwise ordered, this Order shall remain in effect until further order of this Court or until the Order Declaring Statewide Judicial Emergency is rescinded or allowed to expire.

This Order shall not serve to alter, amend or in any way modify the earlier declarations and determinations referenced above.

IT IS ORDERED that the Sheriff of Bryan County shall post this Order in a public manner in the affected courthouse location and at each public entry point of the courthouse.

There shall be no interruption of normal electronic filing services and electronic digital search capabilities in the affected courts to the extent they are otherwise normally available.

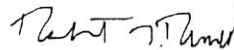
Moreover, the Bryan County Courthouse shall remain open for public access during regular business hours 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, less and except legal holidays.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the undersigned shall immediately notify and serve Chief Justice Harold D. Melton of the Supreme Court of Georgia with a copy of this Order, such service to be accomplished via e-mail to Tee Barnes, the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Georgia at barnest@gasupreme.us;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the undersigned shall immediately notify and serve a copy of the order on the judges and clerks of all courts sitting within the jurisdiction affected and on the clerks of the Georgia Court of Appeals and Georgia Supreme Court, such service to be accomplished through reasonable means to assure expeditious receipt; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the undersigned shall give notice of the issuance of the order to the affected parties, counsel for the affected parties and to the public.

SO ORDERED, this 12th day of May, 2021.



ROBERT L. RUSSELL, III
Chief Judge, Superior Courts
Atlantic Judicial Circuit